1. Let us negate the goal and assume the negated goal is true to prove the contrapositive, which is logically equivalent to the original statement. The negated goal would be “ an NP-complete problem that has a algorithm.” We assume this to prove that SAT will have a algorithm. Since any NP-complete problem can be reduced to any other NP-complete problem, SAT can be reduced to in polynomial time, and so we could solve SAT through such a reduction. The total time associated with such a reduction plus the time to solve is , where means polynomial time in , which we can express as or , where and are natural numbers. We now need to show is . is anyway, so we can ignore it, and is still , so we only need to show is . The two sides have the same base –– 2, so we only **need to show is .**

If a function is , that by definition means , which means . Hence, . To show that is , we need to show . We already showed that as approaches infinity, the numerator approaches ; and it’s obvious that the denominator approaches infinity, so the whole thing approaches . is thus , and so is . So has a algorithm. The contrapositive is thus proven. QED.